

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. Canceled.
2. (Currently Amended) A cable, comprising:
a plurality of color-coded buffer tubes providing a first level of color-coded identification; ~~wherein each buffer tube of said plurality contains~~
[[a]] color-coded ed filling material, disposed in each of the color-coded buffer tubes,
providing a second level of that is color-coded identification; and
a plurality of color-coded optical fibers, disposed in each of the color-coded buffer tubes,
providing a third level of color-coded identification
~~non-colored coded filling material; and~~
~~transparent or translucent buffer tubes wherein said non-color coded filling material is~~
~~disposed within said color coded buffer tubes, and said color coded filling material is disposed~~
~~within said transparent or translucent buffer tubes.~~
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. (Currently Amended) The cable of claim 2, wherein the color-coded filling material
is a color-coded gel ~~further comprising color-coded fibers.~~
6. Canceled.
7. Canceled.

8. (Currently Amended) The cable of claim 5 [[2]], wherein said color-coded gel comprises a fluorescent colorant ~~cable complies with EIA/TIA-598.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The cable of claim 2 [[8]], ~~further comprising up to 288 optical fibers,~~

wherein each optical fiber in the plurality of color-coded fibers is individually identifiable based on a unique three-dimensional color-code defined by color of the each optical fiber, color of the buffer tube in which the each optical fiber is disposed, and color of the filling material of the buffer tube in which the each optical fiber is disposed,

wherein at least two buffer tubes in the plurality of color-coded buffer tubes have a common color,

wherein at least two buffer tubes in the plurality of color-coded buffer tubes are filled with color-coded filling materials that have a common color, and

wherein at least two color-coded optical fibers in plurality of color-coded fibers have a common color.

[This area has been intentionally left blank.]

10. (Currently Amended) A cable, comprising:

a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes, each comprising circumscribing identifier marks attached thereto at regular length intervals;

a plurality of color-coded optical fibers within each buffer tube of said plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes; and

color-coded filling material disposed within each buffer tube of said plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes, [[:]] wherein a combination of filling material color, optical fiber color, and the circumscribing identifier marks uniquely identifies each optical fiber in the cable ~~each buffer tube contains a different color or filling material.~~

[This area has been intentionally left blank.]

11. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying buffer tubes, comprising;
a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes, each having an inner wall circumferentially surrounding a respective set of optical fibers;
at regular length intervals, identifying at least one ring, band markings attached to and circumscribing , ~~stripe or identification thread/tape for~~ at least one transparent or translucent buffer tube of said plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes;
a plurality of color-coded buffer tubes;
non-color-coded filling material; and
gelatinous color-coded filling material, [[:]]
wherein said gelatinous color-coded filling material is disposed within said transparent or translucent buffer tubes and homogeneously fills essentially all volume between the respective sets of fibers and the respective inner walls, and wherein said non-color-coded filling material is disposed within said color-coded buffer tubes.

12.-16. Canceled.

[This area has been intentionally left blank.]

17. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying optical fibers, comprising:
a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes providing an internal volume;
color-coded optical fibers occupying a portion of the internal volume; and
color-coded gelatinous filling material disposed within ~~at least one~~ each of said buffer
tubes, wherein each buffer tube contains a different color of filling material, and wherein the
color-coded fibers and the color-coded gelatinous filling material occupy essentially all of the
internal volume.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling
material comprises a pearlescent colorant
~~further comprising a~~
~~plurality of color-coded buffer tubes; and~~
~~non-color-coded filling material disposed within said color-coded buffer tubes.~~

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

[This area has been intentionally left blank.]

21. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a color-coded ~~identifying or managing~~ optical fiber ~~s in a cable~~, comprising:

color-coding optical fibers;

color-coding gelatinous filling material in response to mixing colorants with gelatinous filling material;

producing color-coded buffer tube stock in response to mixing tube colorants with buffer tube material;

extruding the color-coded buffer tube stock around first respective groups of the color-coded optical fibers while injecting said color-coded gelatinous filling material into the resulting color-coded buffer tubes;

~~including non-color coded filling material in color-coded buffer tubes~~;

extruding transparent or translucent buffer tubes around second respective groups of the color-coded optical fibers; and

injecting ~~eluding~~ said color-coded gelatinous filling material in respective ones of the extruded at least one transparent or translucent buffer tubes alongside the second respective groups of color-coded optical fibers.

22.-30. Canceled.

[This area has been intentionally left blank.]

31. (New) The cable of claim 10, wherein the color-coded filling material of least three buffer tubes in said plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes have a common color,

wherein at least three buffer tubes in said plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes have a common marking code,

wherein at least three color-coded optical fibers in the cable have a common color, and

wherein the color-coded filling material is gelatinous.

32. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises pythalocyanime.

33. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises azo dye.

34. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises chromium oxide.

35. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises lake pigment.

36. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises quinolone.

37. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the gelatinous filling material comprises lithopone.